GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
DECLINE IN GRAZING AREA
Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grazing area is continuously decreasing in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the ill-effects of decreasing grazing area of small farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a)&(b): es, Sir.The country had an area of 10582 thousand hectares under permanent pastures and other grazing lands in 2001-02, which declined to 10423 thousand hectares in 2004-05 and 10415 thousand hectares in 2005-06.

(c): The ill-effects of decreasing grazing area are manifested in
(i) decreased availability of nutrients to the grazing animals leading to lower production and
(ii) increasing cost of production on making up the nutritional deficiency through purchased roughages or concentrates.

(d): These include implementation of a Centrally sponsored Fodder Development Scheme, which includes components of grassland development, fodder seed production programme, bio-technology research projects and assistance for establishment of fodder block-making units.